

ADD ONE/EYEWITNESS EXHIBIT

written or recorded by players in these dramas enable visitors to be transported back in time to these events, almost as if they are experiencing them firsthand.

“The *Eyewitness* exhibit is a perfect fit with the National Constitution Center,” says President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “Our museum brings history to life in engaging, dynamic ways, and the firsthand accounts in this exhibition illuminate some of our nation’s most notable moments in a way that secondary sources cannot match. It is our hope that visitors leave the museum feeling as though they have gained insight into our history in a way they never imagined possible.”

Eyewitness is divided into nine sections: Confrontations for Justice, Scenes from Hell, Free at Last, Passing of an Era, Fallen Leaders, Leaders in Crisis, War at Sea, Personal Encounters, and America on the Move.

Highlights include the following:

- A letter from George Washington to John Hancock expressing his concern about the possible threat of a bioterrorism attack by the British.
- Testimony of President Lincoln’s doctor from the night of his assassination.
- The audio account of the *Hindenburg* explosion by radio newsman Herbert Morrison.
- Lady Bird Johnson’s audio diary account of the Kennedy assassination.
- Testimony of John Lewis from a federal hearing resulting from the 1965 March for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, during which he was beaten.
- Footage of a 1966 TV interview with Jeremiah Denton, an American POW in Vietnam. During the interview, he blinked his eyes in Morse code spelling out the word “torture.”
- The broadcast from the crew of Apollo 8 while in lunar orbit on Christmas Eve 1968.
- A 1974 diary entry from George H.W. Bush, then chairman of the Republican National Committee, recounting President Nixon’s resignation.

While *Eyewitness* is on display, the National Constitution Center will also show an exhibition of rare and important treasures from the collections of local libraries and museums, *Philadelphia Treasures*. This accompanying exhibit shows the richness of history preserved in Philadelphia, and tells important stories about our nation’s history, just as the *Eyewitness* exhibition does. *Philadelphia Treasures* was developed in partnership with the America Philosophical Society, Atwater Kent Museum of

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Philadelphia, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute, Free Library of Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, The Library Company of Philadelphia, National Archives and Records Administration Mid-Atlantic Region, University of Pennsylvania Library, and other Philadelphia collecting institutions.

To further augment the exhibition, the Constitution Center's education and public programming staff in the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach will develop a variety of resource materials, special programs, and family activities. Also in keeping with the Center's mission to foster discussion and citizen engagement, a variety of evening programs discussing current and historical topics that relate to the exhibition will be planned for the summer.

Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives is free with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. An Acoustiguide audio tour is available for \$3 per person and \$2 for members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.